USGS
science for a changing world

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:
Patricia A. Plunkert, Aluminum Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: pplunker@usgs.gov

Benjamin S. Goff (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7962
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: bgoff@usgs.gov

Internet: http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals

ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2006

Domestic primary aluminum production in February was 179,121 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,397 t, 1% higher than that of the previous month but 6% below the rate for February 2005. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to $1.169 per pound in February from $1.118 per pound in January, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) fluctuated during February. The price range began the month at 87–88 cents per pound, increased to 89–91 cents per pound on February 3, and increased again to 90–92 cents per pound on February 7. On February 14, the price range fell to 85–87 cents per pound and on February 21, it plummeted to 78–80 cents per pound before rebounding slightly on February 28 to 80–81 cents per pound.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum decreased in March to $1.148 per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased during March. On March 7, the price range increased to 81–83 cents per pound; on March 14, it increased to 84–86 cents per pound; and on March 21, the price range increased to 88–90 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery[2]			Imports for consumption			Total new supply[3]	Total stocks, end of period[4]
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2005[p]	2,481	1,900	1,120	3,020	3,660	1,190	4,850	10,400	1,430
2005:									
February	191	157	91	248	289	97	386	825	1,450
March	214	171	96	267	262	105	367	847	1,480
April	211	162	95	257	372	104	476	943	1,500
May	214	159	98	257	372	104	476	947	1,520
June	206	153	96	249	324	107	431	886	1,500
July	210	170	96	267	324	104	428	904	1,550
August	208	167	96	262	264	110	374	845	1,510
September	199	157	91	248	282	97	379	827	1,590
October	207	151	95	246	298	94	393	846	1,550
November	204	151	84	236	240	91	330	770	1,440
December	208	143	82	225	299	89	388	821	1,430
January-February	400	319	186	506	624	187	811	1,720	1,450
2006:									
January	197	159	87	246	348	97	445	888	1,490
February	179	146	85	231	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-February	376	305	172	477	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

[p]Preliminary. NA Not available.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

[3]Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

[4]Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2005[p]	1,740	1,260	812	722	1,010	943	98	87	6	6	3,660	3,020
2005:												
February	146	105	63	56	84	79	8	7	1	1	301	248
March	150	108	67	60	97	91	8	7	1	1	323	267
April	146	106	66	59	90	84	8	7	1	1	311	257
May	151	109	69	61	85	80	8	7	1	1	313	257
June	138	103	67	60	84	79	9	8	1	1	299	249
July	141	102	92	83	79	74	8	7	1	1	321	267
August	151	109	77	69	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	319	262
September	148	107	65	58	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	248
October	154	112	55	49	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	246
November	138	101	62	55	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	285	236
December	129	93	63	56	74	69	8	7	(2)	(2)	274	225
January-February	293	212	127	113	177	166	17	15	1	1	614	506
2006:												
January	138	101	66	59	84	79	8	7	(2)	(2)	297	246
February	133	97	64	56	75	70	8	7	(2)	(2)	280	231
January-February	271	198	130	115	159	149	16	14	1	1	577	477

[p]Preliminary.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN FEBRUARY 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	111,000	133,000	80,600	96,700
Integrated aluminum companies	63,500	63,500	56,400	56,400
Independent mill fabricators	62,400	74,900	58,500	70,200
Foundries	6,660	7,990	5,850	7,030
Other consumers	355	426	355	426
Total	244,000	280,000	202,000	231,000

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4

PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN FEBRUARY 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

	February				January-February[2]	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	26,800	59,200	59,900	26,200	129,000	128,000
Can stock clippings	647	19,600	19,300	972	37,200	38,300
Other wrought sheet/clippings	7,810 r	24,300	24,300	7,870	50,800	50,600
Casting	1,550	6,410	6,700	1,260	13,300	13,700
Borings and turnings	7,830	10,600	11,000	7,410	22,400	23,100
Dross and skimmings	4,100	34,000	34,100	4,060	68,800	69,100
Total new scrap	48,800 r	154,000	155,000	47,800	321,000	323,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,720	14,300	14,800	5,190	29,200	29,800
Used extrusion	137	295	295	137	590	590
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,390	55,400	55,500	1,320	112,000	112,000
Other wrought products	4,080	6,510	6,510	4,080	13,000	13,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,410	10,600	10,600	3,330	22,000	22,500
Total old scrap	14,700	87,100	87,800	14,100	177,000	178,000
Sweated pig	302	733	746	289	1490	1,490
Total all classes	63,800 r	242,000	244,000	62,100	500,000	502,000

rRevised.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Includes revised data from previous month(s).

[3]Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5

ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2006[1, 2]

(Metric tons)

	February				January-February[3]	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	5,390	1,160	1,300	5,250	2,320	2,520
380 and variations	2,790	13,800	14,300	2,290	28,700	30,300
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,010	1,870	1,860	1,020	3,700	3,690
No. 319 and variations	2,080 r	6,630	5,460	3,250	11,900	11,200
F-132 alloy and variations	739	1,700	1,760	682	3,450	3,670
Al-Zn alloys	102	175	158	119	343	321
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	46	46	39	92	92
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	45	325	325	45	651	651
Other[4]	5,620 r	5,870	5,080	6,410	11,900	11,000
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	9,240	21,100	21,100	9,240	42,200	42,400
Total all alloys	27,100 r	52,700	51,400	28,400	105,000	106,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	11,900	XX	XX	23,600	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,380	XX	XX	4,670	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	680	XX	XX	1,180	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot[5]	XX	37,700	XX	XX	75,700	XX

rRevised. XX Not applicable.

[1]Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

[2]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[3]Includes revised data from previous months.

[4]Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

[5]No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	7,790	--	--	7,790
Australia	5,950	5	92	6,050
Bahrain	5,350	1,310	--	6,670
Belgium	--	656	--	656
Brazil	14,800	2,500	--	17,300
Canada	176,000	45,400	28,100	250,000
China	6,790	10,100	--	16,800
France	8	457	--	465
Germany	212	8,070	29	8,310
Hungary	--	91	--	91
Italy	64	232	--	296
Japan	17	1,940	36	2,000
Korea, Republic of	36	197	--	233
Mexico	--	1,520	9,270	10,800
Netherlands	133	182	--	315
Norway	--	39	--	39
Russia	66,600	2,500	203	69,300
South Africa	7,040	5,510	--	12,600
Spain	14	66	--	81
Sweden	--	661	--	661
Switzerland	218	564	--	782
United Arab Emirates	12,800	--	--	12,800
United Kingdom	10,400	343	278	11,000
Venezuela	29,900	2,190	159	32,300
Other	3,780	12,700	3,590	20,100
Total	348,000	97,200	41,700	487,000

-- Zero.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Australia	30	120	--	149
Belgium	89	798	--	887
Brazil	33	240	49	323
Canada	11,900	41,200	10,700	63,700
China	608	2,450	57,700	60,800
Czech Republic	--	5	--	5
Dominican Republic	1	43	--	44
France	--	1,160	--	1,160
Germany	17	947	49	1,010
Hong Kong	86	890	1,110	2,080
India	29	35	563	626
Israel	43	281	--	324
Italy	1	304	--	305
Japan	276	1,240	4,060	5,570
Korea, Republic of	94	945	11,300	12,300
Malaysia	1	88	265	353
Mexico	26,200	21,700	6,850	54,700
Netherlands	3	65	40	108
Russia	--	22	--	22
Saudi Arabia	--	1,590	--	1,590
Singapore	11	168	--	179
Spain	--	102	--	102
Sweden	--	7	--	7
Taiwan	12	670	3,230	3,910
Thailand	107	741	371	1,220
United Kingdom	41	1,380	37	1,460
Venezuela	--	81	(2)	81
Other	495	3,410	3,860	7,760
Total	40,000	80,700	100,000	221,000

-- Zero.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.